

FOR INFORMATION

BM.02/DOC.07: ACCELERATED FUNDING MECHANISM STATUS UPDATE

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to provide the GCERF Governing Board (the “Board”) with an update on the status of the Accelerated Funding Mechanism (“AFM”).

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 In his September 2014 speech at the fifth ministerial meeting of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry stated, *“We launched [GCERF] last year in order to put local communities in the driver’s seat. ... And given the more immediate challenge that is posed by ISIL, I’d ask that our partners encourage the fund to make grants to local organizations that focus specifically on anti-ISIL projects.”*

2.2 At its first meeting in November 2014, the Board, in decision BM.01/DEC.06, welcomed the GCERF Secretariat’s proposal of an Accelerated Funding Mechanism (“AFM”) to provide an efficient and effective way for the global community to provide fast and flexible support to projects responding to the recent escalation in violent extremism worldwide and its current manifestations.

2.3 Also at its first meeting, the Board, in decision BM.01/DEC.11, noted that dedicated resources will be required to implement the AFM, including for operating expenses related directly to the AFM; and directed the Executive Director to launch the AFM and to seek to secure no less than USD 3.5 million for the AFM.

3. PROGRESS

3.1 On 17 January 2015, the Board approved the Terms of Reference of the Accelerated Funding Panel using a no objection process.

3.2 Concurrent with the launch of the Core Funding Mechanism (“CFM”), the Secretariat has invested significant time in fundraising for the AFM. Such efforts have included, but are not limited to:

- creating funding proposals;
- distributing these proposals to:
 - every donor government member of the GCTF;
 - multilateral institutions, for distribution among their networks (e.g. GCTF, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe); and
 - research institutions (e.g. Brookings Institution, Chatham House, Geneva Centre for Security Policy);
- making targeted pitches to donor governments (e.g. Australia, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, United Kingdom); and

- raising to private-sector stakeholders (e.g. Chevron, Facebook, Google, IBM, J.P. Morgan, KPMG, and Yahoo) through the following channels:
 - GCERF's "Big Think" event in San Francisco, United States, in December 2014 for West Coast-based private sector companies;
 - individual meetings; and
 - the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2015 in Davos, Switzerland.

3.3 Initial interest in, and indication of likely support for, the AFM, have not yet translated into the expected contributions or pledges needed to launch this funding mechanism. To date, only one GCERF donor – the Government of Norway – has committed funds to the AFM, in the amount of NOK 1,850,000 (approximately USD 230,000).

4. NEXT STEPS

4.1 The Secretariat continues to see the merit and urgent need for the AFM and will continue its efforts to raise the necessary funds to launch the AFM. This includes discussions with several governments (e.g. Switzerland) for the secondment of an expert staff member to raise funds for and help launch the AFM.

4.2 Without the additional contribution of USD 3.3 million, the AFM cannot be launched.

4.3 The Secretariat awaits further input from the Board on this matter.